



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5924/2  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Iron Ore (Mount Goldsworthy) Agreement Act 1964, Mineral Lease 249SA (AML 70/249);  
Iron Ore (Goldsworthy-Nimingarra) Agreement Act 1972, Mineral Lease 251SA (AML 70/251);  
Iron Ore (Goldsworthy-Nimingarra) Agreement Act 1972, Mining Lease 263SA (AM 70/263).  
Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbara  
Colloquial name: Sunrise Hill 4 West Project

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
180		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Production and associated activities

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 30 July 2020

## 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

**Vegetation Description** The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:  
**93:** Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex;  
**117:** Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex; and  
**171:** Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over soft spinifex & *Triodia brizoides*.

A flora and vegetation survey conducted by Astron Environmental Services (Astron) identified the following four main vegetation communities comprising ten vegetation associations within the original permit area (Astron, 2011):

#### **Acacia Low Closed Forest:**

**5:** Low Closed Forest of *Acacia colei* var. *colei* and *A. tumida* var. *pilbarensis* over Tall Open Scrub of *A. colei* var. *colei*, *A. tumida* var. *pilbarensis* and *A. synchronicia* over Scattered Hummock Grasses of *Triodia epactia* and *T. biflora*.

#### **Acacia Tall Open Scrub:**

**6a:** Low Open Woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *C. flavescens* over Tall Open Scrub of *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis*, *A. ancistrocarpa*, *A. colei* var. *colei* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* over Low Open Heath of *Acacia stellaticeps* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia epactia* and *T. schinzii* over Very Open Tussock grassland of *Chrysopogon fallax* and *Paraneurachne muelleri*.

**6b:** Scattered Low Trees of *Corymbia flavescens* and *C. hamersleyana* over Tall Open Scrub of *Acacia ancistrocarpa* and *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia epactia* with Open Tussock Grassland of *Chrysopogon fallax*.

**6c:** Scattered Low Trees of *Corymbia hamersleyana* over Tall Open Scrub of *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* over Low Open Shrubland of *Acacia adoxa* and *A. hilliana* over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia epactia*.

#### **Triodia Hummock Grassland:**

**10a:** Scattered Low Trees of *Corymbia hamersleyana* over Tall Open Shrubland of *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* and *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula* over Low Open Shrubland of *Acacia adoxa* and *A. hilliana* over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia epactia* over Very Open Sedgeland of *Fimbristylis oxystachya* and Scattered Tussock Grasses of *Eriachne mucronata* and *E. lanata*.

**10b:** Tall Shrubland of *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula* over Low Open Shrubland to Open Heath of *Acacia hilliana* and *A. adoxa* over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia epactia*.

**10e:** Low Open Woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* over Tall Open Shrubland of *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula* and *Acacia inaequilatera* over Low Shrubland of *Acacia adoxa* and *A. ptychophylla* over Closed Hummock Grassland of *Triodia epactia* and *T. wiseana*.

**10p:** Tall Open Shrubland of *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis*, *A. inaequilatera* and *A. synchronicia* over Low Open Shrubland of *Acacia hilliana* and *A. adoxa* over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia epactia* and *T. wiseana*.

**10s:** Low Open Woodland of *Grevillea pyramidalis* subsp. *leucadendron* and *Acacia inaequilatera* over Open Shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *A. inaequilatera* and *A. synchronicia* over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia*

*epactia*.

**Triodia Open Hummock Grassland:**

**11:** Low Woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* over Low Shrubland of *Tephrosia* sp. Bungaroo Creek, *Acacia adoxa* and *A. stellaticeps* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia epactia* and *T. wiseana*.

The vegetation associations of the amendment application areas are largely consistent with the above vegetation associations (BHP Billiton, 2020). However, vegetation association 6c was not recorded in the amendment areas, and the following two additional vegetation associations occur within the amendment areas (BHP Billiton, 2020):

**10f:** Low Open Woodland of *Corymbia flavescens* over Tall Open Shrubland of *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* and *A. colei* var. *colei* over Low Shrubland of *Indigofera monophylla*, *Isotropis atropurpurea* and *Corchorus elachocarpus* over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia epactia* over Scattered Tussock Grasses of *Chrysopogon fallax* and *Sporobolus australasicus*.

**10h:** Low Open Woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* over Shrubland of *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula* and *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis*, *A. inaequilatera* over Low Open Heath of *Acacia adoxa* and *A. hilliana* over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia epactia*.

<b>Clearing Description</b>	Sunrise Hill 4 West project. BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd (BHP Billiton) proposes to clear up to 180 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 471 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 150 kilometres east-southeast of Port Hedland, within the Shire of East Pilbara.
<b>Vegetation Condition</b>	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994).  To  Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).
<b>Comment</b>	The vegetation condition was derived from a vegetation survey conducted by Astron (2011). The majority of the application area (approximately 80 percent) has been previously cleared and comprises sparse regrowth vegetation (BHP Billiton, 2013; 2020). The vegetation condition of the original permit area was described as Excellent to Degraded, while the condition of the amendment application areas is described as ranging from Very Good to Completely Degraded (BHP Billiton, 2020).  Vegetation clearing within the project area is undertaken for the purpose of continued mining at the existing Sunrise Hill 4 West pit, crushing of low grade ore from numerous existing waste rock stockpiles from previous mining operations, and mining related infrastructure including: ore crushing areas, haul roads, train load-out, stockpiles, and waste rock dumps (BHP Billiton, 2013).  Clearing permit CPS 5924/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 20 February 2014 and was valid from 15 March 2014 to 31 March 2031. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 180 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 450 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities.  On 3 June 2020, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 5924/1 to increase the permit boundary to approximately 471 hectares; extend the period in which clearing is authorised and the permit duration; and update the permit reporting dates to be consistent with other BHP Billiton clearing permits.

### 3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

#### Comments

The permit holder has applied to amend the permit to increase the permit boundary by approximately 21 hectares, to include several small additional areas in the permit boundary. There is no change to the area of clearing proposed (180 hectares) (BHP Billiton, 2020).

The existing permit area is made up of multiple areas, which include the Sunrise Hill 4 West Pit and 16 associated waste rock stockpiles which are being reworked to extract low grade ore (BHP Billiton, 2013). The amendment application areas include an additional three waste rock stockpiles and are located either immediately adjacent to existing permit areas or up to approximately 5 kilometres away from the nearest existing permit area (BHP Billiton, 2020; GIS Database).

The permit area is located mostly within the Chichester sub-region of the Pilbara Bioregion, with a small part falling within the McLarty sub-region of the Great Sandy Desert Bioregion, of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). The Chichester subregion is described as undulating granite and basalt plains with significant areas of basaltic ranges. Plains support a shrub steppe characterised by *Acacia inaequilatera* over *Triodia wiseana* hummock grasslands, while *Eucalyptus leucophloia* tree steppes occur on the ranges (CALM, 2002). The McLarty sub-region is described as mainly tree steppe grading to shrub steppe in the south; comprising open hummock grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia schinzii* with scattered trees of *Owenia reticulata* and Bloodwoods, and shrubs of *Acacia* spp., *Grevillea wickhamii* and *G. refracta*, on red longitudinal sand dune fields overlying sandstones (CALM, 2002).

The amendment application areas are broadly mapped as Beard vegetation associations 93, 117 and 171,

which is consistent with the original permit areas (GIS Database). These vegetation associations remain at approximately 96-99% of pre-European extent in the state and 94-99% in the two bioregions (Government of Western Australia, 2019). Hence, the vegetation proposed to be cleared does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Astron (2011) conducted a flora and vegetation survey over the project area including the current amendment application areas during March and April 2011. No Threatened or Priority flora, or Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities have been recorded within the amendment application areas (GIS Database), and none were found during the flora and vegetation survey (Astron, 2011; BHP Billiton, 2020). The amendment areas are unlikely to represent an area of higher biodiversity than the original permit area or surrounding areas.

Ten weed species have been recorded within the vicinity of the amendment areas, one of which (*Calotropis procera*, Calotrope) is listed as a declared pest under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BHP Billiton, 2020). Weeds have the potential to out-compete native flora species and reduce the biodiversity of an area, and care should be taken to prevent the introduction or spread of weeds in the application areas. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the continued implementation of the existing weed management condition on the permit.

ENV (2011) conducted a fauna survey over the project area including the current amendment application areas during 2011. The following two fauna habitat types were identified within the amendment application areas: Alluvial Plain, and Low Hill, which is consistent with the original permit areas (BHP Billiton, 2020; ENV, 2011). There are no unique or restricted fauna habitats within the amendment areas and the areas are unlikely to represent significant habitat for fauna in a regional context (BHP Billiton, 2020; ENV, 2011). ENV (2011) considered the fauna habitats within the survey areas to be of poor quality compared to surrounding undisturbed areas. Substantial areas of similar habitat occur in surrounding areas (BHP Billiton, 2020; ENV, 2011; GIS Database).

No conservation significant fauna species were recorded during the fauna survey (ENV, 2011). As the habitat types are similar, the fauna species occurring within the amendment areas are likely to be the same as those occurring within the original permit boundary. Several fauna species of conservation significance have the potential to occur within the application areas, based on known distributions and available habitats (BHP Billiton, 2020), however no critical habitat was identified within the amendment areas, and the clearing of the amendment areas is unlikely to impact the conservation status of any fauna species.

There are no watercourses or wetlands within the amendment application areas, and there are no Public Drinking Water Areas in the vicinity of the project area (BHP Billiton, 2020; GIS Database). Clearing within the small additional areas is unlikely to result in appreciable land degradation, or have any significant impact on watercourses, surface or groundwater quality, or on the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The amendment application areas are not within or in close proximity to any conservation areas (GIS Database), and the proposed clearing is unlikely to have any impact on any conservation area.

The vegetation associations, landforms, and fauna habitat types occurring within the amendment areas are similar to those occurring within the previously approved permit areas, and are well represented in the region (BHP Billiton, 2020; GIS Database). The relatively small extension to the permit boundary (21 hectares) is unlikely to result in any significant additional environmental impacts.

The amendment application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Environmental information has been reviewed, and the assessment of the proposed clearing against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision report CPS 5924/1.

**Methodology** Astron (2011)  
BHP Billiton (2013)  
BHP Billiton (2020)  
CALM (2002)  
ENV (2011)  
Government of Western Australia (2019)

GIS Database:  
- DPaW Tenure  
- Hydrography, Lakes  
- Hydrography, Linear  
- IBRA Australia  
- Imagery  
- Pre-European Vegetation  
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas  
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities boundaries  
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities buffers  
- Threatened and Priority Flora  
- Threatened Fauna

## Planning Instrument, Native Title, previous EPA decision or other matter.

### Comments

There is one native title claim (WC1999/008) over the area under application (DPLH, 2020). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group. However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There one registered Aboriginal Site of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2020). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

The amendment application was advertised on 15 June 2020 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

**Methodology** DPLH (2020)

## 4. References

- Astron (2011) Yarrie Nimingarra, Shay Gap and Sunrise Hill Flora and Vegetation Survey. Report prepared for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, by Astron Environmental Services, April 2011.
- BHP Billiton (2013) Sunrise Hill 4 West and Waste Rock Stockpiles. Application for a Native Vegetation Clearing Permit under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, Western Australia, December 2013.
- BHP Billiton (2020) Application to amend Native Vegetation Clearing Permit CPS 5924/1 Sunrise Hill 4 West and Low Grade Stockpiles NVCP. BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, Western Australia, June 2020.
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DPLH (2020) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.  
<http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 27 July 2020).
- ENV (2011) Nimingarra and Shay Gap Vertebrate Fauna Survey. Report prepared for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, by ENV Australia, April 2011.
- Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth.  
<https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

## 5. Glossary

### Acronyms:

<b>BoM</b>	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
<b>DAA</b>	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
<b>DAFWA</b>	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
<b>DBCA</b>	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
<b>DEC</b>	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DBCA and DWER)
<b>DoEE</b>	Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government
<b>DER</b>	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DMIRS</b>	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
<b>DMP</b>	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)
<b>DPIRD</b>	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
<b>DPLH</b>	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
<b>DRF</b>	Declared Rare Flora
<b>DoE</b>	Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DoEE)
<b>DoW</b>	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DPaW</b>	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
<b>DSEWPaC</b>	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DoEE)
<b>DWER</b>	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
<b>EP Act</b>	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
<b>EPBC Act</b>	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)

<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information System
<b>ha</b>	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
<b>IBRA</b>	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
<b>PEC</b>	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
<b>RIWI Act</b>	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
<b>TEC</b>	Threatened Ecological Community

### **Definitions:**

{DBCA (2019) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia}:-

#### **T            Threatened species:**

Listed by order of the Minister as Threatened in the category of critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under section 19(1), or is a rediscovered species to be regarded as threatened species under section 26(2) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act).

**Threatened fauna** is that subset of ‘Specially Protected Fauna’ listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for Threatened Fauna.

**Threatened flora** is that subset of ‘Rare Flora’ listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for Threatened Flora.

The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.

#### **CR            Critically endangered species**

Threatened species considered to be “*facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as critically endangered under section 19(1)(a) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 20 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 1 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for critically endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for critically endangered flora.

#### **EN            Endangered species**

Threatened species considered to be “*facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as endangered under section 19(1)(b) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 21 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 2 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for endangered flora.

#### **VU            Vulnerable species**

Threatened species considered to be “*facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as vulnerable under section 19(1)(c) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 22 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for vulnerable fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for vulnerable flora.

### **Extinct Species:**

#### **EX            Extinct species**

Species where “*there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 24 of the BC Act).

Published as presumed extinct under schedule 4 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for extinct fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for extinct flora.

#### **EW            Extinct in the wild species**

Species that “*is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; and it has not been recorded in its known habitat or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 25 of the BC Act).

Currently there are no threatened fauna or threatened flora species listed as extinct in the wild. If listing of a species as extinct in the wild occurs, then a schedule will be added to the applicable notice.

## **Specially protected species:**

Listed by order of the Minister as specially protected under section 13(1) of the BC Act. Meeting one or more of the following categories: species of special conservation interest; migratory species; cetaceans; species subject to international agreement; or species otherwise in need of special protection.

Species that are listed as threatened species (critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable) or extinct species under the BC Act cannot also be listed as Specially Protected species.

### **MI Migratory species**

Fauna that periodically or occasionally visit Australia or an external Territory or the exclusive economic zone; or the species is subject of an international agreement that relates to the protection of migratory species and that binds the Commonwealth; and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 15 of the BC Act).

Includes birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and fauna subject to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (Bonn Convention), an environmental treaty under the United Nations Environment Program. Migratory species listed under the BC Act are a subset of the migratory animals, that are known to visit Western Australia, protected under the international agreements or treaties, excluding species that are listed as Threatened species.

Published as migratory birds protected under an international agreement under schedule 5 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

### **CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**

Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 14 of the BC Act).

Published as conservation dependent fauna under schedule 6 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

### **OS Other specially protected species**

Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 18 of the BC Act).

Published as other specially protected fauna under schedule 7 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

### **P Priority species:**

Possibly threatened species that do not meet survey criteria, or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna or Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories are ranked in order of priority for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to their declaration as threatened fauna or flora.

Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, or meet criteria for near threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species require regular monitoring.

Assessment of Priority codes is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.

#### **P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species**

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

#### **P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species**

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

**P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species**

Species that are known from several locations, and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat, or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. Such species are in need of further survey.

**P4 Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring**

(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.

(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as Conservation Dependent.

(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

**Principles for clearing native vegetation:**

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.
- (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.